

REMARKS

In response to Examiner's requirement of restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121, Applicants elect Group I, Claims 1-16, for prosecution on the merits.


Applicants propose that the prior art search conducted for claims 1-16 (Group I) would significantly overlap the prior art search conducted for claims 17-20 (Group II). Therefore, examination of the entire application, including Groups I and II, would not result in a substantially increased burden upon the Examiner. Given that the restriction requirement is discretionary with the Examiner, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the requirement for restriction.

Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications or take such other action as deemed necessary with respect to the non-elected group.

Respectfully Submitted,

EIT DRENT ET AL.

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